

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 21-42, 44-61, and 63-70 were examined. No claims have been added, amended, or cancelled. Thus, claims 21-42, 44-61, and 63-70 remain pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-27, 29-39, 41-42, 44-53, 55-58, 60-62, and 63-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,526,037 of Cortjens et al. (hereinafter "Cortjens").

In a response filed on August 17, 2006, Applicants argued Cortjens fails to teach "a router present at the first device for determining whether said at least one high-level event message is handled locally at the first device or remotely at the second device," as recited in claim 21.

With respect to this limitation, the Examiner states:

[A]s seen in Column 8, Cortjens teaches that the local device is programmed to product events that are determined to be handled remotely, rather than the usual local events (lines 33-37) which are then forwarded, or "routed" through the local devices' interface called the remote interface to the remote device (lines 39-44).

(Final Office Action, dated October 24, 2006, page 10, paragraph 2).

Cortjens describes generating control signals at local peripheral devices, such as a mouse or joystick (Cortjens, column 5, line 59 to column 6, line 2). The peripheral device is connected to a controller so that when the controller receives a signal/command from the peripheral device, the controller performs a signal conversion before sending the signal to a local or remote system (Cortjens, column 5, lines 55-59; column 8, lines 37-39). The controller, and not the peripheral device that generated the

signal, is responsible for performing any signal routing functions (Cortjens, column 8, lines 39-44).

The Examiner points to Cortjens, at column 8, lines 33-49, which recites:

The user, using mouse 12, control panel 13, or joystick 18, may command a particular action to be performed at the remote site, such as panning the remote camera to the left or right, tilting the remote camera up or down, etc. The user's actions are converted into network standard control signals and these signals are sent by converter 11B to controller 10. Controller 10 determines the action required at the remote site and sends, via network 23 and codec 16, network standard control signals corresponding to the action to the remote controller. The remote controller then sends, via its own network, the network standard signals to the converter for the remote pan/tilt unit. The remote converter then generates the appropriate instruction for the remote pan/tilt unit control node which, in turn, causes the pan/tilt mechanism for the selected remote camera to perform the action specified by the user at the local site.

(emphasis added).

However, that portion of Cortjens clarifies that while the user utilizes the peripheral devices, the routing is performed by the controller via the controller's own network. Further, the controller is not equivalent to the first device, since it functions as a control signal server, distinct from a peripheral device, in the video conferencing system of Cortjens.

Thus, Cortjens describes a host or server device that performs signal routing, which is separate and distinct from the peripheral device that generates control signals. In Cortjens the peripheral devices are a mouse, joystick, etc. and the peripheral devices are not taught as performing any routing functions.

The Applicants, however, in claim 21 recite in part "a router present at the first device for determining whether said at least one high-level event message is handled locally at the first device or remotely at the second device," in which the high-level event

message is also generated at the first device. Because Cortjens fails to describe a mouse, joystick, etc. performing any control signal routing determination functions, then Cortjens must fail to teach “a router present at the first device for determining whether said at least one high-level event message is handled locally at the first device or remotely at the second device,” as recited in claim 21.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is not anticipated by Cortjens. Claims 22-27, 29-39, 41-50 depend on claim 21, and include additional features and limitations to those contained in claim 1. Thus, for similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 22-27, 29-39, 41-50 are also not anticipated by Cortjens. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 21-27, 29-39, 41-50 under § 102.

Similarly, amended claim 51 recites in part “a router in the client device to determine whether the at least one high level event message should be handled locally at the client device or remotely at the host.” As discussed above, with respect to claim 21, Cortjens fails to fails to teach or suggest local event-message handling at the device which generates a control signal. Because claim 51 claims “a router in the client device to determine whether the at least one high level event message should be handled locally at the client device or remotely at the host,” claim 51 is similarly not anticipated by Cortjens. Furthermore, claims 52, 53, 55-58, and 60-66 depend on claim 51, and include additional features and limitations. Thus, claims 52, 53, 55-58, and 60-66 are also not anticipated by Cortjens.

Claim 67 recites in part “receiving a notification at a first device, indicating that an event has occurred with respect to the first device; determining whether the event

should be handled locally at the first device or remotely at a second device.” As discussed above, with respect to claim 21, Cortjens fails to describe signal routing at the device which generates the signal. Thus, Cortjens fails to teach or suggest “determining whether the event should be handled locally at the first device or remotely at a second device,” as claimed in claim 67. Therefore, Cortjens fails to anticipate claim 67. Claims 68-70 depend on claim 67, and include additional features and limitations. Thus, claims 68-70 are also not anticipated by Cortjens.

Claims 40 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,930,709 of Creamer et al. (hereinafter “Creamer”). The Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that Cortjens and Creamer, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element as claimed by the applicants in claims 40 and 59.

As discussed above, with respect to independent claims 21 and 51, Cortjens fails to describe or suggest a router at a client device for determining if an action can be handled locally. Because Creamer merely describes a self-contained camera that can upload images or video directly to the internet based on user commands entered into the camera (Creamer, column 6, lines 29-58), Creamer also fails to describe or suggest a router at a client device for determining if an action can be handled locally. Therefore, Cortjens and Creamer, alone or in combination, fail to render claims 21 and 51, and thus dependent claims 40 and 59, obvious.

Claims 28 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cortjens in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,606,365 of Maurinus et al. (hereinafter “Maurinus”). The Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that Cortjens and

Maurinus, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element as claimed by the applicants in claims 28 and 54.

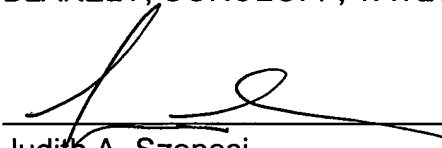
As discussed above, with respect to independent claims 21 and 51, Cortjens fails to describe or suggest a router present at a client device for determining if an action can be handled locally. Because Maurinus merely describes a camera which wirelessly transmits raw image data to a separate image processing before transmitting the image to a home interface controller (Maurinus, column 8, lines 39-51; column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 19), Maurinus also fails to describe or suggest a router present at a client device for determining if an action can be handled locally. Therefore, Cortjens and Maurinus, alone or in combination, fail to render claims 21 and 51, and thus dependent claims 28 and 54, obvious.

If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Judith Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 12/21/06



Judith A. Szepesi
Reg. No. 39,393

Customer No. 08791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(408) 720-8300
Fax (408) 720-8383